

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Communication dated December 20, 2003, wherein the Examiner notes that Applicants, in their previous responsive amendment, failed to respond to the Rejections under section 1-02(b) etc. Applicants apologize for their oversight and thank the Examiner for his indulgence in allowing Applicants to respond to said rejection.

Applicants traverse the outstanding rejections and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the above amendment.

An abstract has been added as requested by the Examiner. Likewise, the specification has been amended in conformance with the Examiner's requirement. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the kind suggestions.

Objections to the specification :

The above requested amendment to the specification i.e., hyperlinks pursuant to MPEP 608 is sufficient to overcome the grounds for the objection.

Claim Rejections:

The rejection of claims 7, 13, 18-20 under section 102(b) as anticipated by WO 97/18825 is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claim 18 and 19 have been canceled. Hence, the rejection of claim 18 is rendered moot in light of the amendments presented herein.

With respect to claim 7, as amended, this claim now requires a specific cDNA sequence that encodes an HD-interacting polypeptide specified by one of SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 5 or 7.

It is respectfully proposed that the limitations presented in claim 7, as amended are missing from the cited reference. Considering that more than one cDNA molecule can encode a particular amino acid sequence, the amendment presented herein, limiting the cDNA to SEQ ID NO: 3 is sufficient to negate the grounds for this rejection.

Likewise, claim 20 as amended, now recites a nucleotide sequence "consisting" of instead of "comprising". Applicants believe that the newly recited close-ended term "consisting" is sufficient to avoid anticipation under section 102(b).

With respect to claims 13, 16 and 17, Applicants note that the claims are dependent claims, depending from claim 7, and are thus allowable for the reasons that claim 7 is allowable over the prior art in addition to the limitations contained in each of these claims.

Serial No.: 09/701,205
Case No.: MC010PI
Page 6

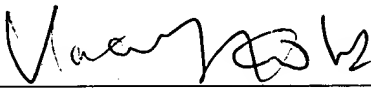
It is believed that all points raised by the Examiner have been attended to and in light of the above requested amendment, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, she is requested to call the undersigned counsel at the number listed below.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 13-2755 for the petition fee and any other fee(s) required to effect this Conditional Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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